

**General Education Committee Meeting**  
**25 September 2015**  
**2 PM**  
**Library 475**

***Committee Members Attending:*** Phil Loubere, Greg Nagel, Nancy Caukin, Georganne Ross, John M. Zamora, Amy Sayward, Ginny Vesper, Andrew Owusu, Kari Neely, Charles C. Chusuei, Michelle Stevens, Yangsoo Kim, Aimee Holt, Brandi Lindsey

***Ex Officio Members Attending:*** Sheila Otto, Greg Schmidt, Dawn McCormack (representing Mark Byrnes), Peter Cunningham

***Guests Attending:*** Cindy Adams, Dianna Rust, Faye Johnson

***Official Duties:***

- Following introductions and welcomes, the committee was chaired by Peter Cunningham, who thanked the committee for its important work.
- Nancy Caukin was nominated to serve as the committee's Vice Chair (to serve as Chair next year) and was elected unanimously.
- Amy Sayward was nominated to serve as the committee's Secretary (Aimee Holt moved, Georganne Ross seconded) and was elected unanimously.
- The minutes for the 6 February and 17 April 2015 meetings were approved with corrections (Aimee Holt moved, John Zamora seconded, and unanimous vote).

***Update on SACS Accreditation (Faye Johnson):***

- Last academic year was the year of record for the SACS full affirmation process and was largely an administrative process.
- This year will involve a two-pronged process of compliance certification and the QEP (Quality Enhancement Project) and broader campus participation.
- On 5 November 2015, a panel of 15 reviewers in Atlanta (off-site review) will review what MTSU has submitted over 3.5 days and will then issue a report that may request additional information or ask additional questions.
- The on-site review by a different team will come toward the end of March 2016 with 10-14 days notice and will generate an additional report. This team will probably meet with the General Education Committee and will review our General Education requirements to ensure the integrity of our standards and understand how student learning outcomes are applied in departments. To prepare for this meeting, members of the committee should review the outline and text submitted.
- In December 2016, the Commission on Colleges will make a report with or without recommendations to which MTSU will respond.
- The report will focus on three categories: (1) core requirements, (2) comprehensive standards, and (3) federal requirements.

***Information on the Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) by Dianna Rust:***

- The QEP has developed more fully since her last report to the committee, but there is still time for additional input.
- She is accepting volunteers to pilot MT Engage in their courses in the Spring and Fall 2016 semesters.
- The committee will likely receive questions on the QEP during the on-site review.
- The QEP will start with the Engage Foundation Pathway (focused on freshmen) and then move to the Engage Major. It will also include Faculty Development (two faculty learning

communities are in process this fall and there will be an intensive workshop this summer), Student Experiences that promote engagement opportunities and experiences, and a Recognition Program. Implementation will begin in the Fall 2016 semester and will focus more on General Education than the previous QEP.

- Aimee Holt offered motion in support of the QEP and its focus on General Education that was seconded by Nancy Caukin and that passed unanimously.

***On-Line General Education Courses (Cindy Adams):***

- MTSU would like to encourage more online General Education courses to compete with RODP courses. It is important to offer on-line options on campus.

***General Education Subcommittees:***

- Aimee Holt distributed a list of all committee members and their respective subcommittees, which will carry out most of the Committee's work in the Spring 2016 semester.
- The subcommittee on Assessment will have a pre-meeting to discuss the developmental work to be done with departments.
- The subcommittee on Policies & Procedures will use the rubric that was refined last year to determine the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award.
- Ad hoc subcommittee on General Education Mission Statement will meet on 20 November 2015 in the Provost's Conference Room (CAB112). Amy Sayward, Greg Schmidt, Michelle Stevens, Andrew Owusu, and Nancy Caukin volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

***Next Meeting—16 October 2015 in Faculty Senate Room (JUB 100):***

- Approval Guidelines for General Education Courses at MTSU were distributed and reviewed, with a reminder that the committee's primary job is to ensure that any proposed General Education course fulfills the guidelines by being broad in scope and not narrowly focused, and by clearly addressing the learning outcomes for its General Education area.